

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Approved

May 30, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Scott Walker, Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present as was Conservation Commission liaison Susan Chapnick.

Anticipated Speakers: James Hampe, Elaine Crowder

Members of the public: N/A

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission vice chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Friends of Robbins Farm Park Fund Raising Proposal

James Hampe of the Friends of Robbins Farm made a presentation to the Commission for fundraising for the playground. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The Commission discussed the fundraising options with Mr. Hampe. Issues included

- Location of the sign
- Permanent nature of the donation
- Inappropriateness of including benches
- Temporary versus permanent signs
- Open Space Bylaw Allowance

Mr. Connelly will again reach out to Planning and Zoning for clarification on what is allowed. The Commission leaned toward temporary signage on the kiosk for up to two years with other acknowledgement in the form of a banner on opening day.

After Mr. Connelly received clarification on what is allowed in an open space district the FORFO have the green light to begin fundraising with the final design of the acknowledgement sign to be determined at a later date.

Paul Lipsky Bench Donation Spy Pond Park

Mr. Connelly reviewed the location and amended language of the plaque. The Commission was in support of the bench donation.

Invasive Removal Update – Elaine Crowder

Elaine Crowder presented some of the invasive removal work by her dedicated group of volunteers. The Commission discussed the success of the efforts. Ms. Crowder asked that three burning bush be removed by the town and permission be granted to replant natives in the area. The Commission approved the action but Mr.

Connelly will check with DPW on their availability to do the work. Ms. Chapnick stated that Conservation could purchase the replacement plantings if Ms. Crowder's group could do the planting.

Ms. Mayer stated that a commitment should also be made to maintain the new plantings.

Poets Corner Playground

Mr. Connelly stated that he has been receiving inquiries as to plans to renovate Poets playground. The Commission discussed the issue now that Belmont Hill has backed out of the partnership. Mr. Connelly stated that a decision was not needed at tonight's meeting but should be in the discussion for next capital/CPA cycle.

The Commission continued to discuss the importance of relooking at the playgrounds and gathering spaces to see what the actual need maybe. Ms. Rothenberg asked that this be placed on an upcoming Commission agenda for a formal discussion. Ms. Mayer stated that a discussion would be helpful but removing play equipment from an existing playground may prove difficult. Mr. Fenollosa and Mr. Walker agreed but stated the discussion of our play spaces is warranted as uses and needs have changed over the last several years.

Mr. Connelly recommended having a town wide discussion. The Commission agreed but suggested this occur after an informal commission discussion. Mr. Fenollosa suggested inviting the Friends of Parks to that Commission meeting for input.

Approval of Minutes: 2/28/2023

The minutes of April 11, 2023 tabled.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings:

Playground and group gathering spaces in our parks capital discussion.

Correspondence Received:

No comments

New Business:

- Shirley Canniff update on Open Space Committee
- The commission discussed investigating the possible purchase of the adjacent archdiocese property to Poets with CPA funds. Ms. Mayer pointed to several missed opportunities in the town's history of purchasing available open space. Mr. Connelly will discuss this option with Deputy Town Manager Jim Feeney and report back.

Open Forum – Public Comment:

N/A

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 9:38pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 4-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Joseph Connelly